



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Sylvie Ratelle, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Division of STD Prevention

RE: Difficulty in obtaining benzathine penicillin G for the treatment of syphilis

We have had a few instances of providers having difficulty obtaining benzathine penicillin G (BPG) for the treatment of syphilis. We have been told by the CDC that this problem will likely be resolved by late fall 2006 when facilities will be running full capacity at King Pharmaceuticals.

Please see the letter from the CDC about directly contacting Joel Newton at King Pharmaceuticals if you encounter problems from your distributors:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/Syphilis/BicillinLA8-22-05.pdf>

Should this be unsuccessful, please contact Sylvie Ratelle, MD, MPH or Bill Dumas, RN from the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) at (617) 983-6940.

A reminder of the recommendations for the treatment of syphilis and other STDs in Massachusetts:

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std/guidelines/trtmntguide.pdf>